

# INFORMATION SHEET

## **THE FULBRIGHT JUNIOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (JSDP)**

Prepared by:  
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**Please note that applying for a Fulbright scholarship is a lengthy process.** The application deadline for studies starting in the fall of 2015 is now closed. However, you can start thinking about your Fulbright application for the fall of 2016. We will start accepting applications for FY2016 in January 2015, at which time a formal announcement will be made to the press.

### **I. SUMMARY**

The Fulbright Junior Staff Development (JSD) Program is the largest Fulbright program with Africa and provides financial assistance for a maximum of two years of study toward a graduate degree from a U.S. university. The JSD program is open to any qualified candidate but strongly encourages the inclusion of female candidates and prefers candidates who have not had extensive recent experience in the United States. Recent (within three years) recipients of Fulbright grants are not eligible to apply, and it should be emphasized that funding is for a maximum period of two years only. It is important to note that degree candidates will typically need to secure additional funding to complete their course of study.

### **II. SELECTION CRITERIA**

Screening procedures vary from country to country and adjustments are made to accommodate local preferences. To maintain the integrity of the selection process, applications are considered in a transparent competition, and the screening committee is comprised of qualified U.S. and local members.

1. Nominees must be citizens or nationals of Guinea, or permanent residents holding a valid passport issued by the nominating country.
2. Nominees must have at least the equivalent of 4 years of university study and the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree.
3. Nominees should have a sufficient level of English proficiency to enable them to realistically accomplish full-time graduate level study in the U.S.
4. Nominees must meet the minimum score on required standardized tests.
5. Nominees should have a high motivation and a serious commitment to completing the program as scheduled and to returning home.
6. Preference will be given to nominees with no extensive or recent U.S. experience.

7. No applicant shall receive more than one Fulbright Student Program grant. This applies to Humphrey Scholar alumni.
8. Local employees of U.S. missions abroad employed by the State Department are ineligible for grants during the period of their employment and for two years following the termination of employment.
9. All application forms must be prepared and submitted electronically: hand-written applications will not be accepted. Please note that only those short-listed for final consideration will be called for a panel interview. Applications should be submitted to: [akhanisf@state.gov](mailto:akhanisf@state.gov). **Please request application forms from [KeitaA@state.gov](mailto:KeitaA@state.gov)** . General inquiries should be sent to: [Conakrypaox@state.gov](mailto:Conakrypaox@state.gov)

### III. DEGREE OBJECTIVE AND GRANT DURATION

Awards are granted as follows:

- 1 to 2 years of study towards one degree only - Master's or Ph.D. ( Eligible grantees may apply for one renewal grant); or
- Participation in an academic year (9-10 months) non degree research program. (Grants are not renewable).

In the Visiting Student Program, the terms "renewal" and "extension" have distinct usages. **Renewal** grants provide a ***continuation of Fulbright funding*** for up to an additional 12 months to continue in an approved academic program. An **extension** allows a student to complete an authorized program with ***funding from non-Fulbright sources***.

### SPECIAL NOTE OF PROGRAM CHANGES

#### FUNDING

Fulbright funding is now limited to TWO years for both Master's and Ph.D. grantees. Eligible Ph.D. grantees who are able to secure funding from outside sources will now remain under Fulbright visa sponsorship rather than having their visa sponsorship transferred to the host institution. Because of ongoing budget constraints, applicants at the Master's level will be given priority as we are unable to guarantee third and possible subsequent years of funding for Ph.D. candidates.

#### Standardized Tests

We advise that JSD nominees must have the following:

**TOEFL** - A score of **575/90** is desirable; however, IIE recommends individuals aim for **600/100**. Applicants who do not score a 575/90 TOEFL may be nominated for JSD if they have a beginning TOEFL score of **550/80**. Consideration will be given for a limited number of nominees with a TOEFL score in the range of **500-533 / 61-72** to be placed in an intensive pre-academic English language training program prior to placement in a Master's degree program. All candidates should take the TOEFL twice by April 15, 2013 unless they score 600/100 or above on their first exam.

**GRE** - JSD nominees are required to take the GRE, except nominees for MBA degrees who must take the GMAT and law nominees who only need to take the TOEFL. Grantees placed in intensive English language training must retake the GRE and TOEFL during the language training period and qualify for Master's degree placement. Grantees unsuccessful in gaining admission to a Master's program within

the allowable period will return home with a certificate of participation in the Intensive English Program.

#### **IV. TESTING**

The JSD competition is extremely competitive, particularly in the fields of journalism, communication, business administration, sciences such as chemistry, biology, physics, and engineering related disciplines. High test scores for these JSD applicants in these fields as well as for ALL Ph.D. candidates in general are crucial.

Candidates should familiarize themselves with the official test form and utilize practice tests available online. Princeton Review, Kaplan and material prepared by ETS are at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org), [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org) and [www.gmac.org](http://www.gmac.org).

Please refer to IIE and Fulbrightonline.org for assistance. IIE emphasizes the following:

1. TOEFL is required of all nominees and the score must be available when the application is submitted to IIE. A minimum TOEFL result is usually 550 on paper-based tests and 80 on IBT for Master's candidates and 600 on paper-based tests or 100 on IBT for Ph.D. candidates; however, **this varies by field of study**;
2. GRE is required for those seeking admission in all fields except law and business. Candidates should retake the GRE if they are below the fiftieth percentile in either section.
3. GMAT is required in the field of Business in lieu of the GRE. A minimum 550 GMAT score is required for Master's candidates and a minimum score of 600 is required for Ph.D. candidates. IIE cannot submit applications to universities without a sufficient GMAT score;
4. If a score is lower than those mentioned above, DO NOT wait for IIE to request retesting;
5. During the registration process and on test dates, applicants must list IIE as a recipient of the test scores. For TOEFL and GRE, the IIE code is 2326. For the GMAT, the IIE code is F0F-4J-28. (F zero F-4J-28). To avoid delays and other problems, the applicant's name on the Panel of Nomination Form (attached) the application, test registration form and medical form must be the same name listed on the passport.

For more information on the Fulbright Scholarship program, please consult the following Website: <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright>.